31st July 1826

Upon my conscience, Brown, I believe I am one of the most [illegible] affectionate, pleasant, sociable, amicable fellows that [illegible]. I have not had your letter six hours, but, though perplexed with my usual preoccupation, here I am having a chat with you. I believe there is something in good spirits, towards which a moderate reputation, [illegible] plague, a pestilence, methodism, or hectic, [illegible] your letter, [illegible] from me, so that one half of my amiability is to be set off to your account. I know not that you are a good letter writer, as any other thing that is good, but sometimes you contrive to put me in a good humour. The first fidling after the second reading is to do over best to thank you. However I could not this month [illegible] my old, idle, dilatory self to talk. Fortune, Brown, & Circumstance, have thrust honors upon me in the way I [illegible], & must be as dutiful as becomes one upon such occasions. - First then, respecting Mr Haydn's picture you will know all I know long since. - I am sorry my report could not be more favorable. Mr Haydn's magnificent copy from the Incredible Hospital I promised him information more delicate as a grand verdict for his judgement, than my opinion, & I have at length procured it. - I mentioned to you that Harlowe, a very clever artist, somewhat whimsical, had made a similar copy of the Transfiguration, I think. However though a right intent about the exhibition to catch the English, by dint of a critical movement; notwithstanding which I have the best authority for saying that the exhibition did not pay the expences, that the picture was eventually sold for that purpose, & just legally seized, & only brought £140. - In a [illegible] pecuniary view such a work, I think, could not be expected to succeed. Was Mr Harlowe bad he hired, or borrowed, who I hope will hire, might have benefited by the reputation of having done it, the aldermen's guild he would [illegible] in consequence, he is a much better judge than I can be, & I offer no opinion. - Having thus made a clearance of the old account, I shall proceed, to be in character, very strict in the Balance; I am about to open a new one; & as I owed you odd hundred thousand speeches in the one, or a former one, I now have to serve up another, that may stand as a cypher at the right end of the Balance. - What will you say, to have open your eyes for your attention, when I tell you that I have had a letter from Geo Keats. - Aye and just such a letter, mind I have nibbed my pen, as in my strange obstinacy I always maintained he would write, when he could at all. - He

is there [illegible] from one end to the other, with the exception of some half dozen lines of common decent civility, an explanation of all transactions between himself this Brother. I have sent the letter to refer to, having sent to him better at her request; but she [illegible] give you, & I feel bound to do so in justice to a man, who certainly [illegible] an unfeignedly & lightingly, & therefore to whom I feel bound that to explain, as a [illegible] appearance that I did not discover it; whose character ever should be all [illegible] to upheld in respect to his Brother's memory, & to that just pride & forbearance which [illegible] led him into the wilds of America, has put it out of her power to protect herself. - In the first place, bound for I must begin with the beginning, he acknowledges to have received letter from you & Mr Harlan, but excuses his not having answered them from the insurmountable aversion he felt to offer exculpation & explanation when he had been so cruelly prejudged, & to men who dominated & dictated after that fashion, where they had no right to do either. He once attempted it but found it impossible. As I am giving her defence, you will have the goodness to understand it. - He finds it still impossible to sit down without reply; and as certain specific charges have reached him through a relation of Mr Taylor's at Cincinnati, he has at length thrown his defence into my hands & request me to give all possible publicity to it; have the goodness therefore to convey the spirit of what follows to Mr Hurst & any other lately to have heard of the charge, which, as he understands it, assumes its most tangible shape in from "that he on his second return to America took with him £760 of his Brother's money". - Now he is all content with denying this, but he enters into most minute particulars, quite conclusive in my judgement & of other that have read them, to prove that it was impossible. - Thomas's whole property, at the first, was £1500. - He then proves, by sums & dates & sale of which I really cannot give, that more than £1000 was expended by & for John before he was of age. - That it was nearly one year & ten months, or two years, after he first went to America - that at the time was not more than ordinarily near at last time, & is not overrating his expenses to say, every thing included, his expenses could not be less than £200 pa. - That in conversation with his Brother, he at that time informed him that he had lent about £170. & therefore without going into minute details, it is clear that when Geo first went to America John had not one shilling, may he was already indebted to Geo; and notwithstanding this Geo left him £300 in hand. - How Geo was enabled to do this, he explains by John pecuniary, Medical expenses, &c &c this during for four years nearly before he was of age, owing to his ground with the surgeon shaving him - he never cost John this amount, when as Geo was taken into Mr Abbey's most expensive, lived with him, & at the end of the time had expended a mere trifle more than the interest of

[illegible] journey; & Mr Abbey made him a present for his services of nearly £100 – He had found leaving since his money sold for more than 1600, & though another three months passage of age he left England, he died, and in consequence of her advances to him before commencement £1000 at his time his Brother in very considerable debt to her – But from the charge of receiving £700 he [illegible] relation to her second visit, [illegible] he could back with him – Whatever money Thos had after he left [illegible] with very trifling exceptions, could arise from no other [illegible] Jones estate, [illegible] his actual personal expences, & he [illegible] £1100 – but then he [illegible] had a perfect & separate claim for £100 – on Geo's arrival he found Thos had received £100 & had remitted £100 to him in America – Then, after the sixths portion was abstracted there remained £540, he thinks exactly to divide – From this they each took £100 more, the remaining £170 being £170 he borrowed of Thos – being all he ever did or ever could have borrowed, if it is to be called borrowing when his Brother was indebted to him more than £400 at that very time – How he came to take this he explains by Thos receipts & engagements to complete which he was obliged at a great expence & all demands to return to England; & then to borrow & scrape money in every direction – That [illegible] and offer this as an apology for not having remitted money to his Brother – that would be conduct without excuse or impossible to be excused by any balancing of accounts, had it been in his power – but that it was as absolutely out of his, as, to use his own forcible words, if he had suffered shipwreck on his return – [illegible] charge can have originated directly from any thing said by his Brother he cannot believe – for his Brother knew little or nothing of his own affairs – & was so depressed, that Geo felt it to be impossible to tell him the facts, & that he had but £170 in the world beyond what he had in his pocket, some 60 or 70 when he left him, & this £170 not his own. – That thought he, Brother never could have believed that the whole £700 was his own peculiar, he might, & Geo thinks he led him to believe that it was the proceeds of Jones estate, although it can be proved that they had but £540 to divide when they landed in England – That still has arisen from any thing vaguely & indirectly said by his Brother, it has originated in those vague & general terms, which, with the kindest possible intention he had himself always used when speaking to his Brother; for such were the dreadful depression of his spirits at times, when speaking alone to his Brother, that he always feared the most dreadful consequences should he ever ascertain the exact situation of his affairs. He therefore always purposely left his Brother in uncertainty, intending & hoping, under pretence, for a time, of balancing Accts, to remit sufficient for his maintenance, & he has only to hope that having shewn the positive fallacy of the cruel charge against him, those whom it may

Drew (C.W.)
(386. K. 14.2.)

CW Dakl

28 April

My dear Sir

There are two letters in the original Bill 'Collection' dated '5th Feby 1731,2'. Rupphead crossed the 2 & wrote 3 by omitting one date - that is the letter referred to.

I put no faith in the dates in the Bill 'Collection', which are often absurdly wrong - wrong by a dozen years - witness Chiswick 1731, Hist Chiswick Nov twelvemonths.

When I wrote I was thinking only of the publication of the Epistle, and whether 1730 or 1731, and expressed that uncertainty where either. Hyperlink, for Pope Jan 22, in his own handwriting, is, with me, conclusive.

The enquiry is now narrowed to date of publication of proof letter. Here

Hill's letter can only help by proving that dates. They show us Pope's policy — defence by a friend, not himself to appear — (See Rogers 208a) — repeated (Rogers 203), in a letter in which P. announces a second edit. Her defence by a friend did appear in Dodsley Journal 23 Dec and Pope's letter is dated 16 Dec. It appears to me that you have from the 23 Dec to 22 June at your disposal.

I have no knowledge that would lead me to believe that the poem letter had appeared in the newspapers.

Your Mem. about Mr Roberts I fear is correct. Pope must have seen only the home-bred, & the home-bred copies were returned to Curll. Curll & Roberts may have been originally joint speculators. They both, separately, reprinted the Address spuriously for the same reason. They would not vindicate Theobald by calling her Parthenope Wycherley a surreptitious edition. They

both Houses Rent the Hall has been purchased
of Capt Thrumpton who has moved the windows
He could prove his reasons
before he attended it.

Dicas (C.W.)
(385 K.H.L.)